

on pace to exceed my pledge. And there's no doubt in my mind we can succeed. There's no doubt in my mind this great country can use technology to be able to burn coal in environmentally friendly ways.

Congress needs to pass the Clear Skies Initiative, which is a reasonable—it's a good piece of legislation. It's sound policy. They need to pass it. And by passing it, not only will we clean the environment, but it will result in tens of billions of dollars in clean coal investments by private companies. America must invest in clean coal technology and continue to do so, to harness the power of an abundant resource.

Improving our electricity supply also means making better use of natural gas. The United States has the sixth largest proven reserves of natural gas in the world. We need to increase environmentally responsible production of natural gas from our Federal lands. And to further increase our natural gas supply, Congress needs to make clear Federal authority to choose sites for new receiving terminals for liquefied natural gas.

We need to expand our Nation's use of nuclear power. America has not ordered a nuclear powerplant since the 1970s. France, by contrast, has built 58 plants in the same period of time, and today, France gets more than 78 percent of its electricity from safe, low-cost nuclear power. It's time for America to start building again. So I've directed the Department of Energy to work with Congress to help pass legislation that will reduce uncertainty in the nuclear plant licensing process. We're also working with Congress to provide other incentives, such as Federal insurance to protect the builders of the first four new plants against lawsuits, bureaucratic obstacles, and other delays beyond their control. To build a secure energy future for America, we need to expand production of safe, clean nuclear power.

So I appreciate you letting me come by today to talk about a comprehensive strategy, a comprehensive way forward to achieve one overriding goal, and it's an important goal to achieve. And the goal is to address the root causes of higher energy costs by diversifying our energy supply and reducing our dependence of foreign sources of energy.

For the past 4 years, Americans have been paying the price for delaying a national energy policy. They've been watching their power bills go up. They've seen blackouts. And they're watching the price of gasoline rise at the pump. The energy bill will help us make better use of the energy supplies we now have and will make our supply of energy more affordable and more secure for the future. To make this promise real tomorrow, we've got to act today. Now is the time. Now is the time to stop the debate and the partisan bickering and pass an energy bill.

I look forward to working with Members of the Congress to come up with reasonable compromises on outstanding issues such as MTBE. But for the sake of national security and for the sake of economic security, the Congress needs to pass an energy bill now.

Now is the time to act. Now is the time to put a strategy—we should have done this 10 to 15 years ago. Now is the time to move. And history shows that American innovation is never in short supply. That's the good news. We're going to harness our innovative spirit in this new century, and by doing so, we will leave our children and grandchildren a cleaner, a healthier, and a more secure America.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:05 a.m. at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. In his remarks, he referred to John M. Barth, chairman and chief executive officer, and Betty Arndt, vice president, communications, Johnson Controls, Inc.; Robert B. Catell, chairman and chief executive officer, KeySpan Corp.; and Barry K. Worthington, executive director, United States Energy Association. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Message on the Observance of Juneteenth

June 15, 2005

I send greetings to all Americans celebrating Juneteenth.

Major General Gordon Granger led Union soldiers into Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, bringing the news that the Civil War

had ended and that the Emancipation Proclamation, signed over 2 years earlier, had declared all slaves to be free persons. This historic day is celebrated to remember the end of slavery. Emancipation demonstrated our country's belief in liberty and equality for every citizen, and was a profound recognition that each and every American has rights, dignity, and matchless value.

One hundred forty years later, the Juneteenth observance continues to remind us of our country's founding principles of liberty and justice for all. As we mark the anniversary of the end of servitude, we also recognize the many contributions of African Americans to our culture. African Americans have helped shape our country's character, enhanced the diversity that makes America strong, and contributed to the vitality, success, and prosperity of our Nation. Juneteenth is a day that stands for the dignity and equality of all citizens, regardless of race, so that all may share the blessings of freedom that America provides.

Laura and I send our best wishes on this special occasion. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Memorandum on Suspension of Limitations Under the Jerusalem Embassy Act

June 15, 2005

Presidential Determination No. 2005-24

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Suspension of Limitations Under the Jerusalem Embassy Act

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 7(a) of the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-45) (the "Act"), I hereby determine that it is necessary to protect the national security interests of the United States to suspend for a period of 6 months the limitations set forth in sections 3(b) and 7(b) of

the Act. My Administration remains committed to beginning the process of moving our Embassy to Jerusalem.

You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress, accompanied by a report in accordance with section 7(a) of the Act, and to publish the determination in the *Federal Register*.

This suspension shall take effect after transmission of this determination and report to the Congress.

George W. Bush

Memorandum on Determination To Authorize a Drawdown for Afghanistan

June 15, 2005

Presidential Determination No. 2005-25

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Determination to Authorize a Drawdown for Afghanistan

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 202 and other relevant provisions of the Afghanistan Freedom Support Act (Public Law 107-327) and section 506 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2318, I hereby direct the drawdown of up to \$161.5 million of defense articles, defense services, and military education and training from the Department of Defense for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Remarks at the Congressional Picnic

June 15, 2005

Thank you all for coming tonight. I think we're going to have a pretty special picnic here on the South Lawn. Laura and Lynne and Dick and I are really pleased you're here.